

# Oceania



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## Shown on the cover is the island of Bora-Bora.

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# Table of Contents

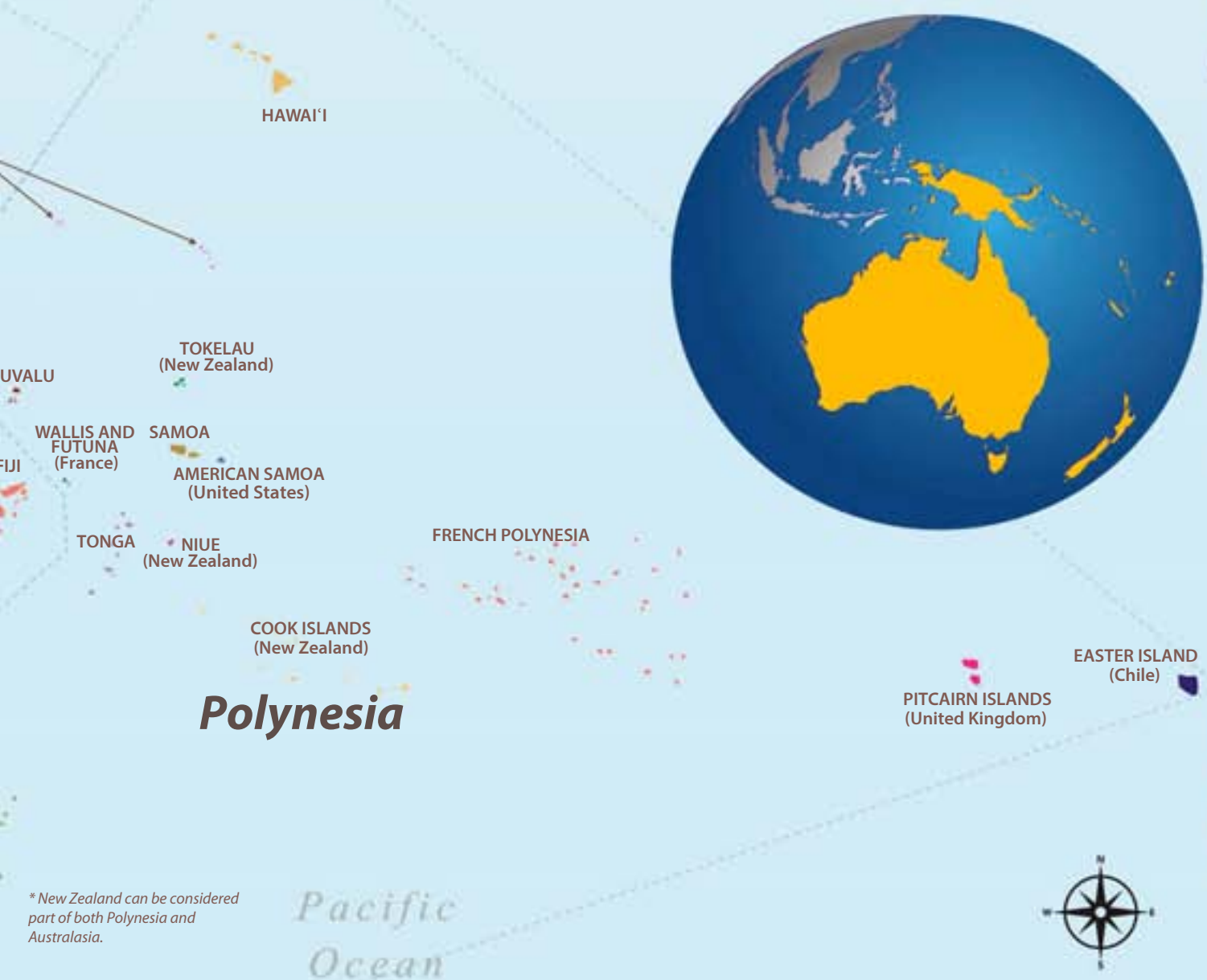
Way Out in the South Pacific .....	4
Where in the World? .....	6
Indigenous Peoples of Oceania.....	10
Modern Life .....	14
Hail the King...or Queen! .....	18
Getting Involved.....	20
Economies in Oceania.....	22
Vast and Unique.....	26
Map It! .....	28
Glossary.....	30
Index.....	31
Learn More! .....	32

# Way Out in the South Pacific

Way out in the South Pacific Ocean is a string of thousands of islands. The surrounding blue waters are filled with a variety of marine life. Each island is unique. The people have varied cultures and languages.

This area is called *Oceania*. There are four island regions in Oceania. Two are Australasia and Micronesia. The other two are Melanesia and Polynesia.

Long, long ago, the islands in this area were difficult places for humans to survive. There were few resources and little to eat. So, when people settled there, they brought plants and animals with them. People on these islands dealt with harsh weather as well. Cyclones, also known as hurricanes, have hit many of these islands hard. But the people of Oceania are strong and **resilient** against these challenges.



\* New Zealand can be considered part of both Polynesia and Australasia.



surfers in Hawai'i, 1910

## Hawai'i

Hawaiians came to the islands on sailing canoes. They were farmers and fishers. Hawai'i was once its own country. The people were ruled by kings. The first ruler, King Kamehameha, united the islands.

*Aloha*, which means “hello” and “goodbye,” is considered a way of life in Hawai'i. The aloha spirit is about relationships. It's about showing kindness.

## Guam

Guam is a **territory** of the United States. It has a mix of cultures. People in Guam celebrate U.S. holidays. Guam also has influences from Spain and the native CHamoru people. The CHamoru are a respected group of people. It is common to see their traditional dances and hear their music in Guam.



CHamoru dancers perform in Guam.

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